

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000064US1
MPS Ref. No.: IBM2K0064

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated March 28, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 28, 2005. Applicant submits this response to place the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-46 are pending in the application. Claims 1-28 and 33-46 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 29-32 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 7-16, 18-23, 25-26, 28-36, 38-40 and 44-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Himmel et al.* (6,212,522 B1, hereinafter "*Himmel*") in view of *Kim* (US 6,546,002 B1).

Claims 4-6, 17, 24, 27, 37 and 41-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Himmel* in view of *Kim*, further in view of *De Greef et al.* (US 6,549,217 B1, hereinafter "*De Greef*").

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Himmel was issued as a patent on April 3, 2001. The present application was filed on August 17, 2000. Thus, *Himmel* is available as a reference only under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). *Himmel* and the present invention, at the time the present application was made, owned by the same entity, or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same entity, as shown in a Statement of Common Ownership submitted herewith. Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), the Statement of Common Ownership removes *Himmel* as a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection based upon *Himmel* be withdrawn and that claims 1-28 and 33-46 be allowed.

Conclusion

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicant believes that a

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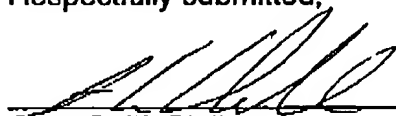
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detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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